

Message

From: Hamilton, John (IHS/PHX) [John.Hamilton@ihs.gov]
Sent: 6/12/2014 3:36:02 PM
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Subject: Summary of the Hopi Infrastructure Call - Thursday, June 5, 2014

Next Call – will be on Thursday, July 3 at 9:30 a.m. Hopi Time. Bessie will provide the call-in phone number and agenda.

Participants in the June 5, 2014 call included:

USGS – Rob Carruth

HUD – Cristal Quinn

USDA - Loretta Orona

IHS - Robert Lorenz, Adam Hughes, Brad Rea and Jesse DeCoteau

USEPA - John Hamilton and Bessie Lee

Sipaulovi Village - King Honanie

Hopi WRP – Uberta Mowa

Hopi EPO – Gayl Honanie

Consultants – Kerry Brough and Steve Thompson

Hopi Arsenic Mitigation Project (HAMP)

1. Well #3 is now essentially complete, with test pumping done on June 3. The yield is over 340 gpm and final well water samples have been sent to the lab, and all preliminary water quality indicators have been very good. IHS and our consultants are finalizing the environmental assessment (EA), preliminary engineering report (PER) and strategic plan (SP) and we plan to have all three documents completed by about July 1. IHS and EPA recommend the Tribe apply for the USDA loan and grant funding at the earliest opportunity.

2. EPA is working with IHS and the Tribe to fund a portion of the HAMP construction project through the DWTSA program, and there may be \$600,000 to \$1,000,000 available this year. This would need to be a discrete portion of the project that can be constructed in the short term.
3. We plan to have a public meeting to review the PER, SP and EA at Hopi after the documents are completed. IHS proposed having the meeting the week of July 14, but we learned this would conflict with home dance ceremonies or preparations, so it may be advisable to have the meeting in early August. We'll work with Lionel and the villages to plan for the timing, location and number of public meetings. The best time for public meetings would be about 6:00 pm, so working people would have an opportunity to attend.
4. There is no apparent progress on Tribal Council approval of the proposed \$2 million HAMP contribution by the Tribe, Hopi Public Utility Authority (HPUA) funding, the HPUA Director position, and village agreements. Bessie asked if villages are talking to their Council representatives to advocate for these issues? Gayl and Uberta agreed communication between village leaders and Council representatives is helpful to expedite this important project, considering the compliance plans and issues with arsenic in community drinking water. Village approval and support for the project is contingent on understanding the water supply user costs, which are based on HAMP overall operating costs and ongoing village water distribution costs. The SP will have these cost estimates, so it's important the project proponents communicate with both the village leadership and the Tribal Council so there is a broad understanding of cost issues. In addition, some of the problems with moving forward may be the result of issues with Hopi Finance and not getting contractors and vendors paid? What's the status of the backlogged single audits, which must be completed before the Tribe applies for USDA loan and grant funds?
5. Cristal asked if anyone is aware of potential HUD ICDBG grant proposals planned for this year? The audit issues would be a factor in this very competitive process. Cristal asked that any proponents contact her if a village or the tribe decides to apply this year.

Shungopavi Village

6. Mike Janes, GHD, is making arrangements for temporary water during repainting of the elevated tank interior, as the initial bid was too high. IHS offered to review the plans for the repainting and temporary water storage.
7. The EPA grant budget period for this project, which will include installation of residential water meters, can be extended, after we have a cost estimate and revised scope of work. This scope of work will be contingent on the amount of EPA grant funds remaining after the tank repainting is completed.

Upper Village of Moenkopi

8. Randy, Lionel and Governor Lewis are not available for today's conference call, as they are attending a Tuba City Dump cleanup meeting in Phoenix.
9. Brad said Randy hired Joe Davis to oversee operations of both the water and wastewater system operations to relieve Randy Wolff of some of the workload.
10. Robert Lorenz briefly summarized a meeting held amongst IHS engineers, USGS, Hopi Water Resources, EPA, MDC and Village leadership on March 12 to discuss water supply alternatives, considering problems with the both C and N aquifer wells, RO treatment plant and increasing demand from planned housing and commercial development in Upper Moenkopi. While the water wells and treatment plant are currently meeting demand, there is no margin for error. For example, a major water leak or well problem can and would cause a significant water shortage that could, once again lead to water outages or rationing. Robert proposes that USGS be retained to study water supply alternatives, including drilling one or two test wells, that would subsequently be put on-line as production wells for the community. USGS has well drilling equipment and staff from the Las Vegas office.
11. This study may also include work at the C aquifer well to determine if the level of iron in the well could be reduced through zonal testing and isolation. This would include a detailed determination of relative water quality in each segment of the aquifer, and then potential isolation of layers with poor quality water. Since the C aquifer well yield exceeds the current pumping rate and demand, the potential for improving well raw water quality may be good. Kerry will send Rob a copy of the zonal sampling report for this well from about 4 years ago. At the present time, USGS is finalizing a scope of work and cost estimate for this study. The scope and cost estimate are being reviewed internally at USGS, and Rob hopes to have it out within two weeks.

12. Funding of the water supply study and related well drilling probably is not available from IHS at this time, although IHS is willing to work with the village and USGS, providing technical assistance throughout the study. The Hopi Housing Authority is working with the Village and MDC to construct 20-25 new housing units, and Housing Authority funds may be available to support the study and well development. Cristal advised that we work with the Housing Authority to seek HUD funding.
13. Another funding option may be EPA Superfund or related grants. We should contact Clancy Tenley at EPA Region 9, once the scope of work and cost estimate are completed. Each year, Congress has appropriated funds for uranium contamination remediation, and although there is no documented link between the Tuba City dump plume and soil contamination and the Upper Moenkopi wells, the community has lost the potential to drill in the dump vicinity and EPA may be in a position to help secure funds for water supply alternatives?
14. Rob will check to see if USGS needs to enter into an agreement for the study with the Hopi Tribe or possibly the Hopi Housing Authority, which is a subdivision of the tribe.
15. Bessie said the existing wells are out-of-compliance with the SDWA, and she'll forward details to Kerry Brough, since GHD is assisting the community in the operation of both water and sewer systems. Kerry said the iron levels in the C aquifer well have increased, while the pumping rate has decreased recently. This may be the result of corrosion of either the well pump or piping from the high salt (TDS) levels.
16. No one on the call is aware of the status of the final residential water meter installations. Water conservation is an important part of the community's efforts to have a dependable and safe water supply.

John Hamilton, PE
EPA Engineering Consultant